Remarks

The Office Action mailed July 17, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-2, 4-48, 50-56 and 62-63 are pending in this application. Claims 1-61 have been rejected. Claims 3, 49 and 57-61 have been cancelled. Claims 62-63 have been newly added. No new matter has been added. No fee calculation sheet is due for the newly added claims.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2006, for the above-identified patent application from October 17, 2006, through and including November 17, 2006. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of $120.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the grounds that the claims do not clearly point out an invention that is useful, concrete, and tangible is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that "[a] result that is useful, concrete, and tangible is not presented in the claims", and that the "claims appear to be a list of steps with no clear outcome that is useful, concrete, or tangible." Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. However, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method that includes "storing transactional data in the database, the transactional data including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction . . . inputting into the computer a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . automatically identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database . . . receiving the identified data from the at least one

identified data collector . . . storing the collected data in the database . . . and generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database." Therefore, Claim 1 recites a method that is useful, and produces a concrete and tangible result.

Claims 2 and 4-13 depend from independent Claim 1 which is submitted to satisfy § 101. When the recitations of Claims 2 and 4-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2 and 4-13 also satisfy § 101.

Independent Claims 14, 23, 30, 44, and 50 have been amended to include similar recitations as in Claim 1 and to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that independent Claims 14, 23, 30, 44, and 50 also satisfy § 101. When the recitations of dependant Claims 15-22, 24-29, 31-43, 45-49, and 51-56 are considered in combination with the recitations of amended independent claims 14, 23, 30, 44, and 50, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 15-22, 24-29, 31-43, 45-49, and 51-56 also satisfy § 101. Claims 57-61 have been cancelled.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the § 101 rejection of Claims 1-61 be withdrawn

The rejection of Claims 1-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schmid (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0029188) ("Schmid") is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schmid does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between the present invention and Schmid is that Schmid does not describe or suggest a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence for a business transaction that includes storing transactional data in the database including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction, and inputting into the computer a specific type of business transaction to be completed.

Moreover, Schmid does not describe or suggest automatically identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the

inputted business transaction wherein each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, and automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database.

Furthermore, Schmid does not describe or suggest generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database.

Schmid describes a computerized system for negotiating loans on behalf of a borrower 212 that collects data on a desired loan transaction in electronic form. The system then electronically notifies a plurality of lenders 214 of the requested loan transaction and invites each lender 214 to electronically submit a corresponding quote. The system posts the received quotes to a database that may be viewed by the borrower 212. The borrower 212 selects quotes from the plurality of quotes, and the system invites the corresponding lenders 214 to participate in a final quote event. In conducting the final quote event, the system displays the selected quotes to the borrower 212 and also displays, to each lender 214, the lender's current quote and the best terms from among the multiple remaining quotes. Each lender 214 is also provided with options to improve their corresponding quote. After a period of negotiation, the borrower 212 selects one quote from among the multiple quotes as the final quote.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence for a business transaction, the computer coupled to a database, the method includes "storing transactional data in the database, the transactional data including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction . . . inputting into the computer a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . automatically identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . automatically identifying at least one data

collector to collect the identified data, wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database . . . receiving the identified data from the at least one identified data collector . . . storing the collected data in the database . . . and generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database."

Schmid does not describe or suggest a method for operating a computer to conduct a due diligence for a business transaction as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Schmid does not describe or suggest a method that includes storing transactional data in the database including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction, and inputting into the computer a specific type of business transaction to be completed.

Moreover, Schmid does not describe or suggest a method that includes automatically identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction wherein each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction, and automatically identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database.

Furthermore, Schmid does not describe or suggest a method that includes generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database.

Rather, Schmid describes a computerized system for negotiating loans on behalf of a borrower wherein the system collects data on a desired loan transaction in electronic form. Specifically, in Schmid, a plurality of lenders of the requested loan transaction are contacted and invited to electronically submit a corresponding quote. After a period of negotiation, the

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borrower selects one quote from among the multiple lender quotes as the final quote. Schmid does not describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 2 and 4-13 depend from independent Claim 1 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2 and 4-13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2 and 4-13 are also patentable over Schmid.

Claim 14 recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, the computer is coupled to a database, the computer is programmed to "store transactional data in the database, the transactional data including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction . . . prompt a user to input a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . automatically identify data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . automatically identify at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database . . . receive the identified data from the at least one identified data collector . . . store the collected data in the database . . . and generate each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data stored in the database."

Claim 14, as herein amended, recites a computer for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a computer programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 14 is patentable over Schmid for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 14 is submitted to be patentable over Schmid.

Claims 15-22 depend from independent Claim 14, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 15-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 14, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 15-22 are also patentable over Schmid.

Claim 23 recites a database for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, the database including "data corresponding to transactional data, wherein the transactional data includes data required to complete a specific type of business transaction . . . data corresponding to prompting a user to input a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . data corresponding to identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . data corresponding to identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted and the transactional data . . . data corresponding to a time for collection of the identified data . . . and data corresponding to generating each standard documentation file for the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 23, as herein amended, recites a database for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that is programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Schmid for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 23 is submitted to be patentable over Schmid.

Claims 24-29 depend from independent Claim 23, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 24-29 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 24-29 are also patentable over Schmid.

Claim 30 recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, the system includes "a database for storing transactional data, the transactional data including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction including a due diligence checklist . . . a server coupled to the database, the server configured to . . . prompt a user to input a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . automatically identify data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . automatically identify at least one data collector to collect the identified data . . . automatically identify a time for collection of the identified data, wherein the identified data to be collected, the at least one identified data collector and the time for collection are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database . . . and generate each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 30, as herein amended, recites a system for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 30 is patentable over Schmid for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 30 is submitted to be patentable over Schmid.

Claims 31-43 depend from independent Claim 30, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 31-43 are considered in combination with the

recitations of Claim 30, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 31-43 are also patentable over Schmid.

Claim 44 recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction using a computer coupled to a database, the method including the steps of "storing transactional data in the database, the transactional data including data required to complete a specific type of business transaction . . . prompting a user to input into the computer a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . selecting, from an electronic interface, data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . selecting, from the electronic interface, at least one data collector to collect the selected data, wherein the data to be collected and the at least one selected data collector are selected based on the type of business transaction inputted into the computer and the transactional data stored in the database . . . generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 44, as herein amended, recites a method for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 44 is patentable over Schmid for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 44 is submitted to be patentable over Schmid.

Claim 49 has been cancelled. Claims 43-48 depend from independent Claim 44, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 43-48 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 44, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 43-48 are also patentable over Schmid.

Claim 50 recites an apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction, wherein the apparatus includes "means for storing transactional data, wherein the transactional data includes data required to complete a specific type of business transaction . . . means for inputting a specific type of business transaction to be completed . . . means for identifying data to be collected during the due diligence to generate each standard documentation file to complete the inputted business transaction, each standard documentation file includes a plurality of documents associated with at least one part of the business transaction . . . means for identifying at least one data collector to collect the identified data, wherein the identified data to be collected and the at least one identified data collector are identified based on the type of business transaction inputted and the transactional data . . . means for receiving and storing the identified data . . . and means for generating each standard documentation file as part of the due diligence to complete the inputted business transaction including automatically assembling each document included within each standard documentation file using the collected data."

Claim 50, as herein amended, recites an apparatus for conducting a due diligence for a business transaction that includes means for perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 50 is patentable over Schmid for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 50 is submitted to be patentable over Schmid.

Claims 51-56 depend from independent Claim 50, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 51-56 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 50, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 51-56 are also patentable over Schmid.
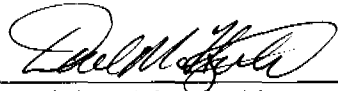
Claims 57-61 have been cancelled.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the § 102 rejection of Claims 1-61 be withdrawn.

Claims 62 and 63 are newly added. Claim 62 depends from Claim 1 and Claim 63 depends from Claim 14. Claims 1 and 14 are submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 62 and 63 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claims 1 and 14, Applicants submit that newly added Claims 62 and 63 are also patentable over Schmid.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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